

Agricultural Commission Meeting Minutes
January 11th, 2011
Town Hall

Members Present: Jaime Wagner, Joe Swartz, Touria Eaton, Jeremy Barker Plotkin, Sally Fitz and Pat Wagner

Members Absent: Wm Levine, Ruth Hazzard, John Thibbits

Non Members Present: David Ziomek, John Gerber, and Bernard Brennan

Zoning of Poultry and Rabbits: Bernard Brennan and John Gerber spoke about the problems with the new proposed bylaws regarding the keeping of hens. There were thoughts about how to please the neighbors possibly by the coop placement. They were going to get some new wording together for the bylaw, and have the Agricultural Commission put their two cents in on them. Pat made a motion to support the concept; Sally seconded this motion and it was unanimously passed.

Massachusetts Association of Agricultural Commissions: Pat made mention that the Massachusetts Association of Agricultural Commissions is looking to have a representative from each county, Jaime volunteered to do this.

There was also a mention of the Agricultural Commission conference being held 3/5/11 in Deerfield.

Hawkers and Peddlers: David noted that Town Council is on this matter. David is going to remind them about the issue.

Subcommittee Reports:

Farmers Market: No new major activity, the reports are that the new market at the middle school is going well, they are going to be getting new EBT machines.

The Town was taken by surprise when the petition asking the town not to go forward with the Sping St. lot renovations was given to them from customers and vendors of the summer market. There was a meeting planned between John Musante and John Spinetti. The Town supports this market but they are moving forward with the lot project, there have been talks about relocating the market to the parking lot closer to Main St. for the summer months it would not be possible to hold the market where it normally takes place.

A report on the Kendrick Park Design was given, by David Ziomek which said that there is going to be a meeting with a design firm on 1/22 to go over 3 design concepts and is up for public review. He would still like to see a push for a multi-use area, with an emphasis on something market related.

Education: This committee met with the middle school and Rich Ferro, The Dean of students and a former science teacher, about some possibilities, they already have a greenhouse, but would like to expand. This subcommittee has done a lot to let the schools know what is available, and also talked about different places off campus that may be suitable to incorporate Ag uses. Teachers need to let us know what they want. There has also been a place hold at the Hawthorne property to use some land for Ag purposes within the schools, also possibly for some community garden space.

Preservation: Pat has been going to conservation commission meetings, there are talks that the inventory of town lands should be done in February some time.

Communication: The second newsletter is due out soon. We would like to put some out at town meeting in May, still working on getting more publicity for it.

Farmers' Forum: Will be held at Smallones Farm in South Amherst 3/16/2011, invitations to go out soon.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Jaime Wagner

Approved at the February 8, 2011 Agricultural Commission meeting.